

ESSENTIAL LIBRARY SERVICES TO READERS AT THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF FISH GENETIC RESOURCES

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INTRODUCTION

Considering the national programmes for improvement and expansion of both inland and marine fisheries of the country, it has been recognised that enhancement of fish production alone is not enough, and the conservation of the diversity of the natural fish population is a necessary prerequisite. Appreciating this the Government of India approved the establishment of National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources during the 6th Five Year Plan. The Bureau was then sanctioned in December 1983 under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research with its main centre at Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh).

The mandate of the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources include

- Collection, classification and cataloguing of information regarding the fish genetic resources in the country.
- Maintenance and preservation of fish genetic material
- Conservation of endangered species.

Aiming at the objective of the Bureau, a library, which is an integral part of a research organization has been set up in

1986-87 with some essential books, technical publications, journals, etc. As information on inland and marine fish genetic resources and conservation is a prerequisite for the formulation of fishery resource development and conservation programme, the NBFGR library aims to procure its publications pin pointedly and exhaustively comprising of macro and micro subjects.

ACQUISITION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS AT NBFGR

Since resource conservation in our country is a new branch of research in fisheries field, the NBFGR library is facing difficulty in the proper acquisition of core and secondary literature on fish genetic resources and their conservation.

Though the growth of fisheries literature is quantifying in size, it is difficult to scan and explore the information on a particular subject for the users as there is no comprehensive bibliographic service to use as a resource. However, in the specific fields of study in fishing we know that the literature is growing exponentially when we look at the FAO Selected Aquaculture Publications (FAO Fisheries circulation series) compiled by G. A. Goche. His lists include nearly all the overtly post 1960's fisheries jour-

The library is also studying the information seeking behaviour of its users which is depicted in **Figure - 1**.

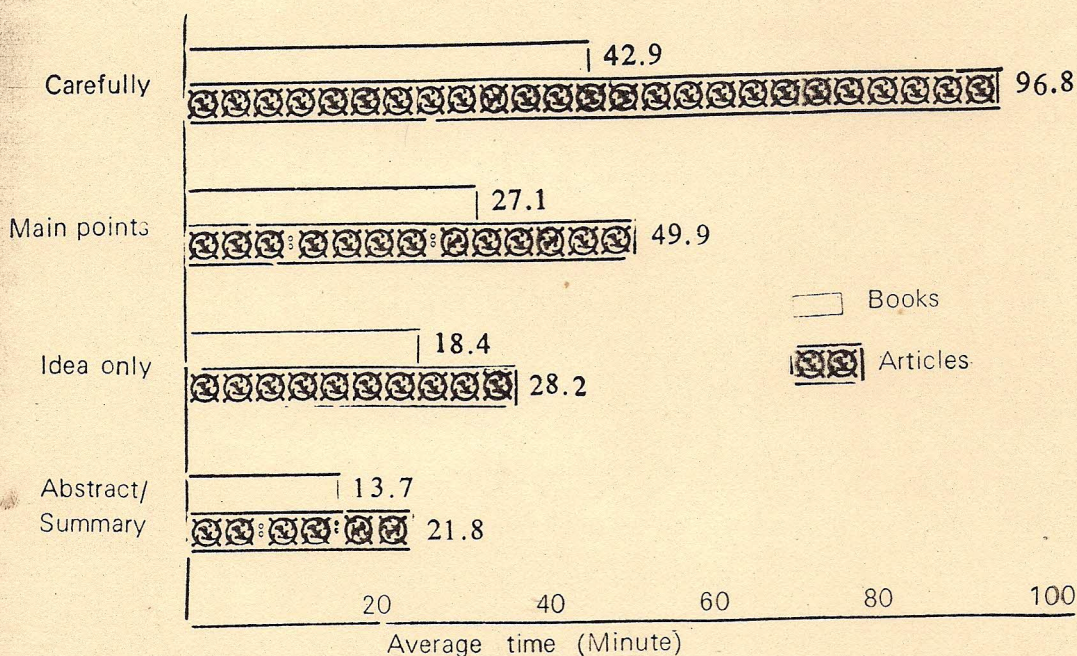


FIGURE 1: The average time in minutes spent by NBFGR library users reading books and articles

CONCLUSION

The motto of setting up a subject-special library in this new subject area is to provide the best service to the scientists who are also new comers to this branch of research. This library has plans for both serials and books collection

development to provide micro and macro documents to its users and also to introduce.

- i. User education programmes.
- ii. Widening the scope of exchange relationship.
- iii. MARC service, and
- vi. Long range reference service.

REFERENCES

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TABLE - 3
Most Frequently Used Books on Ten Main Subjects

Sl. No	Subjects	No. of times used
1.	Genetics including biochemical genetics and Quantitative genetics	48
2.	Cytogenetics	41
3.	Conservation biology	37
4.	Genetics in aquaculture / fish genetics	31
5.	Fish and fishery	24
6.	Fishery biology and Molecular biology	19
7.	Biochemistry	15
8.	Soil science	11
9.	Statistics	9
10.	Reference books	7

TABLE - 4
Most Frequently Used Serials

Sl. No.	Subjects	No. of times used
1.	Aquaculture	74
2.	ASFA Aquaculture abstracts	71
3.	Genetical research	63
4.	Genetics	56
5.	Biochemical genetics	42
6.	Conservation biology	33
7.	FAO publications of different series	24
8.	ICLARM publications of different series	21
9.	Environmental biology of fishes	18
10.	(A) Transactions of American Fisheries Society	14
	(B) Journal of Fish Biology	9
	(C) Indian Journal of Fisheries	3
	(D) Matsya	2

ESSENTIAL LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE READERS AT THE NBFGR

Today, the libraries are faced with the common problem of providing best services to the readers due to the increasing cost of books and serials, reduced budget allocation and the effect of inflation. Keeping in view of all the factors the NBFGR library has started studying the library use and information needs of its users in order to provide selective dissemination of information.

The library services have been made available to the scientists and technicians through

- 1) Reprographic services
- 2) Exchange service
- 3) Translation service
- 4) On demand bibliographic service
- 5) Inter-library loan service
- 6) Current awareness service

1) Reprographic Service : The Minolta Photopier machine (Methodex co. Japan) and Meopta Meoflex RT 4P Microfilm readers renders the library service to the readers.

2) Exchange Service : The library has set up exchange relationship with 50 leading national and international Institutes/Organisations to provide right information at the right time.

3) Translation service : Renders this service by procuring translated articles from INSDOC and other organizations.

4) On demand bibliographic service : Often the scientists are fed with some relevant bibliographic materials produced by the library staff on a particular subject on their demands.

National and international bibliographies are procured as and when required.

5) Inter-library loan : The library utilizes this source also for procuring information for the scientists.

6) Current Awareness Service : The users are kept in touch with the latest information in their field of basic interest as well as in their related fields.

- a. By providing photocopies of the content list of current issues of journals and serials which are received in the library by subscription/in exchange/as gratis.
- b. By procuring content lists of related bibliographies, translation of articles and photocopies,
- c. By providing reprints, clippings, maps, pamphlets, etc.

How the readers utilize the resources of the library subjectwise is shown in Table 3 and 4

TABLE - 1
Percentage of Procured Books (Subject wise)

Sl. No.	Subject	Percentage
1.	Genetics including biochemical genetics and quantitative genetics	25
2.	Cytogenetics	10
3.	Conservation biology	15
4.	Genetics in aquaculture/fish genetics	15
5.	Fish and fisheries	5
6.	Fishery biology and molecular biology	5
7.	Biochemistry	5
8.	Soil Science	5
9.	Statistics	5
10.	Reference books	5

TABLE - 2
Percentage of Procured Journals

Sl. No.	Subject	Percentage
1.	Genetics	20
2.	Cytogenetics	15
3.	Conservation biology	12
4.	Genetics in aquaculture/fish genetics	12
5.	Fish and fisheries	11
6.	Fishery biology and molecular biology	8
7.	Biochemistry	7
8.	Hydrobiology	7
9.	Statistics	3
10.	Other reference serials	5

nals, magazines, newsletters, reports, etc. which are indicative of fisheries core literature as a whole.

The others are Aquaculture Monographs published by ICLARM though their quarterly publication NAGA which contain excellent information in a systematic way.

Another reference tool of FAO is the World List of Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Serials and Periodicals (FAO Fish Technical Paper 147 and 6 supplements 1975-1981) monitored for the ASFIS database.

Yet another excellent source of information on fisheries literature is the "Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) compiled jointly by United Nations - Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission which published 23,000 abstracts in 1986 (published by Cambridge Scientific Abstracts).

By scanning these serials, abstracts and various reference books the NBFGR library is selecting and procuring the core and secondary literature on fish genetic

resources, conservation, genetic in aquaculture and allied subjects as efficient library services depend on proper acquisition.

The present holding of NBFGR library comprises :

Books	: 370 nos
Journals and Serials	: 78 Nos ^{os}
a. Foreign journals	Nos
Subscribed	: 19 Nos
received in Exchange and Gratis	: 15 Nos
b. Foreign journals	Nos
received in Exchange and Gratis	: 15 Nos
c. Indian Journals	Nos
subscribed	: 20 Nos
received in Exchange & Gratis	: 24 Nos
d. Indian Journals	Nos
received in Exchange & Gratis	: 24 Nos
Research Reports	: 35 titles
Miscellaneous publications (Including occasional & irregular publications)	: 175 Nos
titles	5 Nos
Nos	5 Nos
Photocopies of Scientific Papers	: 40 Nos
Maps	: 5 Nos
	5 Nos

The percentage of procured books and serials are shown in Table 1 and 2.

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